



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/602,491 | 06/23/2003 | Michael D. Welch | 2589.C1 | 1097 |
| 7590 | 04/22/2005 | | | EXAMINER |
| | | | KACKAR, RAM N | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1763 | |
| DATE MAILED: 04/22/2005 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/602,491 | WELCH ET AL. |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Ram N. Kackar | 1763 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 June 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 31-43 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 31-35,37,38,40,41 and 43 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 36,39 and 42 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 31-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Comita et al (US 5914050).

The applied reference has a common assignee with the instant application. Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention “by another,” or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Comita et al disclose a cylindrical liner having cylindrical inner and outer surfaces (Fig 2-Fig 6) an aperture and recess (34) in the outer surface contiguous with the aperture (38) recess 34 appears equal to or greater than the aperture 38.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 37-38 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Comita et al (US 5914050).

Comita et al disclose a cylindrical liner having cylindrical inner and outer surfaces (Fig 2-Fig 6) an aperture and recess (34) in the outer surface contiguous with the aperture (38) recess 34 appears equal to or greater than the aperture 38.

Regarding bevel shape it has been held by courts that the shape was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular shape was significant. (*in re Dailey, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966)*). (Also see MPEP 2144.04(d)).

5. Claims 40, 41 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkase et al (WO 97/31389).

Ohkase et al disclose an arcuate door for a slit valve having inner and outer surfaces (Fig 4-50A). In other embodiment Ohkase et al disclose a cylindrical liner (Fig 8A-50) with aperture (50B).

Regarding bevel shape it has been held by courts that the shape was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence

that the particular shape was significant. (in *re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). (Also see MPEP 2144.04(d)).

6. Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masataka Kase (JP 07254386).

Masataka Kase discloses a cylindrical liner (Abstract and Fig 1-52) with aperture (65).

Regarding bevel shape it has been held by courts that the shape was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular shape was significant. (in *re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). (Also see MPEP 2144.04(d)).

7. Claims 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chiba et al (JP 09326367).

Chiba et al disclose a cylindrical liner (Abstract and Fig 2-3B) with aperture (h).

Regarding bevel shape it has been held by courts that the shape was a matter of choice which a person of ordinary skill in the art would have found obvious absent persuasive evidence that the particular shape was significant. (in *re Dailey*, 357 F.2d 669, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1966). (Also see MPEP 2144.04(d)).

Allowable Subject Matter

8. Claims 36, 39 and 42 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 36 is allowable since prior art does not fairly disclose or suggest an arcuate door within the recess of the liner.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ram N. Kackar whose telephone number is 571 272 1436. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00 A.M to 5:P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Parviz Hassanzadeh can be reached on 571 272 1435. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ram Kackar